

**REMARKS**

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider the present application in view of the foregoing amendments to the claims.

**Status of Claims and Specification**

In the present reply, claims 1-5 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Thus, claims 6-8 are pending. Also, claims 6-8 stand allowed (see paragraph 2, page 2 of the outstanding Office Action).

The amendments to the present specification correct typographical errors and do not add new matter. The amendment to page 6, lines 19-25, is also shown in Applicants' reply of September 24, 2004, which has been considered as non-responsive.

Based upon the above considerations, entry of the present amendment is respectfully requested.

In view of the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner to allow the present application.

**Notice of Non-Responsive Reply of December 28, 2004 and Response Thereto**

The Examiner issued a Notice (dated 12/28/04) that Applicants' reply of September 24, 2004, was non-compliant, since claims 1-5, as amended in that Reply, are directed to non-elected subject matter.

In response to this Notice, the disputed claims 1-5 have been canceled herein. Allowed claims 6-8 remain pending in this application.

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**Conclusion**

Thus, since there remain no other outstanding issues, a passage of the instant invention to allowance is warranted. A Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.


Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Eugene T. Perez (Reg. No. 48,501) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.


If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees. However, it is believed that no extensions of time are needed.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By

  
Andrew D. Meikle, #32,868

  
ADM/ETP  
0020-4902P

P.O. Box 747  
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747  
(703) 205-8000

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